

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

COMMENCEMENT BAY / LOWER DUWAMISH WATERWAY Tacoma/ Seattle, Washington



AUGUST 2003

EPA Invites Public Comment on Proposal to Put Lower Duwamish Waterway Sediments into Commencement Bay Blair Slip 1

THE PORT OF TACOMA IS BUILDING A CONTAINMENT FACILITY AT BLAIR SLIP 1 FOR CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS. This facility was designed and approved by EPA as part of the Commencement Bay cleanup. The facility will have a capacity of 650,000 cubic yards, of which 540,000 will be filled with contaminated sediments from the Hylebos Waterway cleanup. It is proposed that 70,000 cubic yards of excess capacity be used to hold contaminated sediments from the Duwamish/Diagonal Way project. When the facility is completed, the Port of Tacoma will use 14 acres of the newly created upland space on top of the containment facility for future development.

Blair Slip 1 was designed and constructed to contain contaminated sediments safely and cost effectively. At the time of EPA's August 2000 decision to approve the facility, the Agency expected it to be filled with contaminated sediments from Commencement Bay. That decision was based on estimated dredging volumes. Updated information indicates that there may be excess capacity in Blair Slip 1.

Sediments from the Duwamish/Diagonal Way project would be safely contained at Blair Slip 1. EPA considered the kinds and levels of contamination and determined that Blair Slip 1 can hold the sediments and safeguard the surrounding aquatic environment.

King County is conducting the Duwamish/Diagonal Way project on behalf of the Elliott Bay/Duwamish Restoration Panel (EBDRP). If Duwamish/Diagonal Way sediments go to the Blair Slip containment facility, EBDRP could redirect about one million dollars toward other environmental cleanup or restoration projects. If the sediments are not placed in Blair Slip 1, King County will send them to a regional landfill. Disposing of sediments at a landfill is far more expensive than putting them in Blair Slip 1.

EPA's objective is to protect human health and the environment in Puget Sound. The Agency believes this proposal will provide environmental benefits, and would like to hear your comments about it.

EPA NEEDS YOUR INPUT

At the meeting on **August 19, 2003**, EPA representatives will explain this proposal, answer questions and listen to your concerns. The Agency will record oral comments and will consider your input before making a decision. King County has asked EPA to make a final decision by early September 2003, based on the County's current schedule for the Duwamish/Diagonal project.

EPA will send out a fact sheet announcing the final decision, answering community questions, and summarizing the issues discussed at the meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR 

Public Meeting: August 19, 2003
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Tacoma World Trade Center
Room 104
3600 Port of Tacoma Rd.
Tacoma, WA 98424
For directions, call:
253-383-9474



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***COMMENCEMENT BAY & LOWER DUWAMISH WATERWAY
SUPERFUND FACT SHEET
EPA NEEDS YOUR COMMENTS
PUBLIC MEETING: AUGUST 19, 2003***

Send EPA your written comments by August 22, 2003, to:

Peter Contreras
U.S. EPA ECL-111
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-1128

To Review Documents, visit: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/hylebos>

Decision Documents:

- Hylebos Waterway DRAFT Explanation of Significant Differences — July 2003
- DRAFT Request for Removal Action

For More Information, call: 1-800 424-4372 Serrano-Velez.lilibeth@epa.gov

For People with Disabilities: Alternative formats are available upon request. Please contact Lilibeth Serrano to request reasonable accommodations. TTY users: please call 1-800-877-8339.